MINUTES

OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

JOINT SYNOD OF OHIO

AND

ADJACENT STATES,

CONVENED AT GREENSBURG, PENNA.,

From November 9th to 14th, 1854.

ERIE:

PRINTED BY C. MOSER.

1855.

OFFICERS OF SYNOD.

Professor W. F. Lehman, President.
Pastor D. Rothacker, Vice President.
—— Doctor A. B. Bierdemann, Recording Secretary.
—— H. S. Lasar, Corresponding Secretary.
John Heyl, Esq., Treasurer.

SERMONS AND EXERCIDES.

Each session of Synod was opened and closed with Singing and Prayer. Public Worship was held every evening, and on Sundays also in the morning and afternoon. Not only in the German Lutheran, but also in the English Lutheran, and in the Reformed and Presbyterian—and in one of of the country churches—Preaching was had by members of the Synod. The orators were, Pastors Grætz, Brandt, Loy, Schwankowsky, Rugan, the President and the Recording Secretary.

MINUTES.

A.) Opening of Synod, and Election of Officers, &c.

Thursday Nov. 9th 1854 Synod convened in the German Ev. Lutheran church at Greensburgh Pa.

Both the President & Secretary being absent, Synod apointed Professor Lehmann President pro tem. & Pastor Dr. Bierdemann Secretary pro tem.

After the President had opened Synod with singing & prayer, the following delegates gave in their credentials:

I. From The Eastern District.

1. Pastor J. Mechling (Secundarius; during the 4th session Pastor J. C. Zeumer the Primarius appearing, he took his seat.)
2. — C. Schwankowsky,
3. — Dr. A. B. Bierdemann,
4. Mr. Andrew Heckel,
5. — Geo. M. Soller.

II From The Western District.

6. Pastor J. C. Schulze,
7. —— M. Loy,
8. —— P. Gast,
9. Professor W. F. Lehmann,
10. Mr. R. Ziegler,

III. From the Northern District.

11. Pastor H. S. Lasar,
12. —— R. Grætz,
13. Mr. Henry Helfrich,
14. — Frederick Kull,

IV. From the English District.

15. Pastor D. Rothacker,
16. —— J. Rugan,
17. Hon. George Wellhouse,
18. John K. Heyl, Esq.,
19. Hon. Peter Williams,

An election of officers was now held, which resulted as follows:

At the first ballot

Professor Lehmann was elected President,

Pastor Dr. Bierdemann — Recording Secretary,

John K. Heyl, Esq. — Treasurer,

At the second ballot,

Pastor Rothacker was elected Vice-President,
And at the seventh ballot
Pastor Lasar was elected Corresponding Secretary.

The following brethren were received as advisory members:
Pastor Brand of the Synod of Pennsylvania,
Candidate Eirich of the Western District Synod,
Pastor Friedrich of the Eastern District Synod.

The following ministers were present and were indroduced to Synod:
Pastor Hersh of the Ev. Luth. Pittsburgh Synod,
—— Emery „ „ „ „
—— Russel „ „ „ „
—— Valentine „ „ „ „
—— Giely of the German Reformed Synod,
—— Hæke „ „ „

B.) Documents which were handed in.

1. Minutes of the 24th session of the Hartwick Synod.
2. „ „ Northern District Synod.
3. „ „ 14th session of the Western District Synod.
4. „ „ 8th „ „ Joint Synod of Ohio.
5. „ „ 18th „ „ English District Synod.
6. „ „ 107th „ „ Synod of Pennsylvania.
7. A letter from brother Roof.
8. Two copies of a work under the title: „Brief Explanation of the shorter catechism of Dr. Martin Luther. (German.)
9. The Treasurer's Report.

C.) Committees appointed.

1st. Committee, to propose by-laws for this body; also to report on document No. 8—Pastors Schwankovsky, Lasar, Gast and Rothacker.

2d. Committee, to report on documents No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10—Pastors Loy, Grætz, Rugan, Schulze, and Messrs. Heckel and Heyl,

3d. Committee, on the Treasurer's Report—Pastor Schulze & Mr. Helfrich,

4th. Committee, on Institutions—Pastors Loy, Schwankovsky and Gast.

5th. Committee, to confer with the English District Synod at its next session—The President and Pastors Zeumer und Loy.

6th. Committee, on Lutheran usages—Pastors Spielman, Loy, Lang, Fetter and Rothacker.

D.) Reports of Committees and Business connected therewith.

1. REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE.

This Committee reported verbally, that the first subject committed to them, viz: to propose by-laws for our body is too important and difficult, to enable them to report during this session of Synod. Whereupon it was

RESOLVED, That this Committee be continued, to report at the next session of this Synod, and that we will in the mean time use in the place of by-laws as much of our former Ministerial Constitution, as is consistent with the present.

The same Committee reported afterwards as follows:

The books which were handed to the first Committee are two copies of a work under the title: *Brief explanation of the shorter catechism of* DR. MARTIN LUTHER, &c., published at Sumnytown, Pa. 1854. As however this work was sent already to the Joint Synod at its session in Thompson tp. with the view of having it recommended, and as moreover the unanimous decission of that meeting of Synod was a just one and true, therefore

RESOLVED, That we regret not to be able to comply with the Resolution of the Pennsylvania Synod, which was added to those copies, and in which they request us to assist them in the circulation of this work.

Respectfully submitted

HENRY LASAR,
C. SCHWANKOWSKY.
P. GAST.
D. ROTHACKER.

This report together with the Resolution therein contained was adopted by Synod.

2. REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE.

a.) FIRST PART.

The second Committee, to whose consideration the following documen were submitted, beg leave to report in part as follows:

No. 1 Are the minutes of the 24th yearly convention of the Hartwick Synod, convened at Dansville, N. Y., in the month of September 1854. We find in them nothing that has any reference to this Synod. Its officers are Pastor G. A. Lintner, D. D., President, Pastor R. Dederick, Secretary, and Pastor T. Lape, Treasurer.

No. 2 Are the minutes of the last convention of the Northern District Synod. The attention of Synod is therein again directed to the case of br. Allbach, which they wish again investigated. In reference to this your Committee propose the following:

Whereas we have no cause to be dissatisfied with the manner in which the English District has investigated the case; and whereas this body has already decided on his appellation at its last convention, and whereas no reasons are given, why that decission should be inverted, therefore,

RESOLVED, That this whole matter be laid on the table.

No. 3 Are the minutes of the last convention of the Western District Synod, in which we find nothing that courts the attention of this body.

M. LOY,
J. RUGAN,
J. C. SCHULZE,
JOHN K. HEYL.
ANDREW HECKEL.

The Report on Ns. 1 & 3 was unanimously adopted. The Preamble and Resolution on No. 2 was adopted by 13 votes against 5; all but one, who were not delegates of the Northern District voting in favor of it. The yeas were

Bierdemann, Gast, Heckel, Heyl, Lehmann, Loy, Rothacker, Rugan, Schulze, Soller, Wellhouse, Williams, Ziegler — 13.

Naes: Grætz, Helfrich, Kull, Lasar, Schwankowsky — 5.

b.) SECOND PART OF THE REPORT.

No. 4. Are the minutes of the last convention of the Joint Synod of Ohio, of June a. c, Your Committee find therein on Page 7 & 8 Resolutions adopted, as proposals to amend our Constitution, which are to be definitely decided at this convention of Synod.. On page 7 we read: "That in the 2d article of the Synodical Constitution the words: *or at least as they are contained in the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luthers smaller Catechism*, be striken out, and the following inserted: *or who confess and maintain in their Constitution the unaltered Augsburg Coofession and the Smaller Catechism of Luther in the sense and spirit of the other Symbols.**

The second resolution reads thus, „that the word „LICENCE"in Art. 6. of the Constitution be striken out."

Synod therefore has to decide at this session, whether these amendements shall be adopted or not.

THE COMMITTEE.

Synod now considered the two proposed amendments, and adopted the first with 11 votes against 5.

The Yeas where: Bierdemann, Gast, Grætz, Heyl, Lehmann, Loy, Rugan, Schulze, Wellhouse, Williams, Ziegler — 11.

Nae's: Heckel, Helfrich, Kull, Schwankowsky, Soller — 5.

The whole second article of the Constitution as amended, therefore reads as follows:

ART II.

This Synod shall be composed of representatives from all Ev. Lut. Synods, now united in the existing Synod of Ohio, and such other Synods as may from time to time adopt this Constitution, and with us adhere to the

* In the printed minutes of last session an error occurs. The words "AT LEAST" were among those objected to, and the word „WHO" was substituted in the place thereof, to show 1st that we ourselves adhere to the whole of the Symbolicals Books, and 2dly that we ask of Synods, who may wish to connect themselves with us, not *at least* to adopt the unaltered Augsburg Confession & Luthers Smaller Catechism, but to adopt those symbols in *their whole bearing* in which they contain *in nucleo* all the doctrins of the other Symbols. This was distindly understood at our meeting in Thompson Tp. which was shown by the unanimous testimony of all those members of this Synod, who were also present at that meeting. *Note of the Secretary.*

doctrines of the word of God as set forth in all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, or who in their own Constitution confess and maintain the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's smaller Catechism in the sense and spirit of the other symbols.

The second amendment was discussed during several sessions of Synod, and at last the following adopted:

In as much as the question of licensure involves principles of such importance, as to make it desirable, that every member of our several Districts should have an opportunity of taking part in the discussion of the proposed amendment to the Constitution on this subject; and in as much as several of our Districts have not definitely expressed themselves upon it, in consequence of which their delegates are not sure of acting to the entire satisfaction of all by the adoption of the amendment; therefore

1. *Resolved*, That all further action upon the proposed amendment be postponed until the next session of this Synod.

2. *Resolved*, That the several Districts be requested in the mean time, to take such action upon the subject, as will leave their delegates no reason for doubt in regard to their wishes in future.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted by 9 votes against 4, viz:

Yeas—Bierdemann, Gest, Heyl, Lehmann, Loy, Rugan, Schulze, Williams, Ziegler—9.

Naes—Grætz, Heckel, Schwankowky, Zeumer—4.

c.) Third Part of the Report.

In addition to No. 4, the second Committee report as follows:—

On page 15 and 16 of the minutes of the last Synod convened in Thompson township, a Committee is mentioned, whose duty it should be, if possible to report at this meeting of Synod, a plan, how the Lutheran Standard may be changed into a weekly paper. Is this Committee ready to report?

On page 16 we see that the edeniat on the question of the Lutheran Usages, which had been agitation 1851, was deferred to the beginning of this session of Synod. The Committee on this subject ought therefore to report here.

No. 7 is a letter of Pastor Roof. As the contents of this letter agree with matter already reported, your committee can make no further report thereon.

J. C. SCHULZE,
M. LOY,
ANDREW HECKEL,
JOHN K. HEYL.

The President as member of the committee on the Lutheran Standard, reported verbally, that under the existing circumstances, it is not possible to issue the Standard weekly.

The Recording Secretary, as a member of the committee on Lutheran Usages, reported verbally, that he has written a lengthy report on this subject, but owing to great disagreement in the views of the members of the committee, he modified his own views to a considerable extent, in order to approach near to those of other members. As, however, he is now

the only member present, so that his report would seem to express his own views, he begs leave not to report. Both verbal reports were received as satisfactory; but in regard to the letter, it was

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to offer at the next Convention of the joint Synod a special report on the point in question.

The President appointed Pastors Spielmann, Loy, Lang, Fetter and Rothacker.

d.) Fourth Part of the Report.

The second Committee respectfully submit, in addition to their former report, the following:

No. 5, are the minutes of the last session of the English District Synod, convened at New Jefferson in October last. On pages 7, 8 and 12 sundry resolutions appear, referring to this body, to which the Com. consider it their duty to invite attention. They accuse this convention of intolerance, oppression and inconsistancy as well as of pursuing a ruinous policy with regard to our Church Institutions. Your Com., while they heartily deplore the passage of such resolutions, and the publication of others that were not passed, by which groundless suspicions respecting the character of our Synod and the permanence of its Institutions are awakened in the community, are still of the opinion, that further intercourse on the part of the English District with the members of this Synod would clear away the misapprehensions, which probably gave rise to those resolutions, apparently written under the influence of wounded feelings, and would convince them, that to labor with us in the upbuilding of our church is both pleasant and profitable. They therefore offer for the Synod's adoption the following resolution:

Resolved, That we herewith assure the English District of our continued fraternal feeling towards them, and entreat them, prayerfully to consider, whether their best interests and those of the Church do not require them to leave the tie, which has hitherto bound us together, unbroken.

No. 6. are the minutes of the 108th convention of the E. Luth. Ministerium of Pennsylvania a. a. st. Your Committee find in them nothing, that has reference to this body. The officers are J. C. Becker, D. D., President, Pastor A. T. Geisenheimer, Secretary, and Pastor C. W. Schæffer, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

M. LOY.
R. GRAETZ.
J. C. SCHULTZE.
ANDREW HECKEL.

This report with its resolution was adopted by 10 votes against 7.

Yeas: Bierdemann, Gast, Grætz, Heyl, Lehman, Loy, Rothacker, Schulze, Wellhouse, Ziegler—10.

Naes: Heckel, Helfrich, Kull, Lasar, Schwankovsky, Soller, Zeumer—7.

Hereupon it was

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed by Synod, to attend at the next meeting of the English District Synod, in order to consult with that body in regard to the existing misunderstanding.

Resolved, That this Committee be also instructed to establish from the word of God and our Symbols, the resolution adopted by this Synod in re-

gard to unchurchly Societies, and to report at the next convention of this body.

Synod appointed the President & Pastors Zeumer & Loy.

A Committee was now appointed, to report further resolutions in regard to the evil reports which were disseminated against our institutions &c. This Committee consisting of Pastors Loy, Schwankowsky & Gast reported during the next session as follows:

3. REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE.

Your Committee which was instructed to report in regard to a resolution brought before Synod, respectfully report the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That we have full confidence in Professor Lehmann, and that we are fully convinced, that he labors with blessing for our Institutions at Columbus, and that the insinuations made against him can not in any wise shake either our confidence in him or our expressed convictions, and further

RESOLVED, That both the character and learning of the Professors now presiding over our Institutions, prove to us that the unfavorable rumors which have been set afloat against them are entirely without foundation, and further

RESOLVED, That we feel ourselves induced even by those rumors, with renewed energy to labor for the advancement of our Institutions at Columbus.

Respectfully submitted

M. LOY.
C. SCHWANKOWSKY.
P. GAST.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted.

4. REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE.

The 3d Committee has examined the Treasurers report, and found it to be correct; and since a debt of $ 44,91 ought to be liquidated, your Committee propose the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Treasurers of the different Districts be requested, in accordance with a former standing resolution, to send one half of the amount of their Synodical Treasury to the Treasurer of this body, as the Western District regularly has done,

Your Committee

J. C. SCHULZE.
HENRY HELFRICH.

This report & resolution were adopted.

Report of the Treasurer of the Joint Synod of Ohio & a. st.

RECEIPTS.

Ballance in Treasury at the session in Seneca Co. in June '54.	22,40
June 29th Received of the Treasurer of the Western District	55,65
July 1 from Pastor B. F. Buehl a collector	2,00
— 10. „ „ Kuchler „	3,00
„ 15 „ „ Molsheimer	13,00
„ 30 „ Treasurer of the West. District	2,50
Sept. 14 Loan from the Treasury of Western District	20,82
	$ 119,37

EXPENDITURES.

Sept. 20th.	Paid for Printing of Minutes	$118 00
	Exchange	1 75
	Postage	30
		120 05
		119 37
	The Treasury indebted to Treasurer	68
	To this indebtedness must be added:	
	Due to the Treasury of Foreign Missions	23 41
	Loan from the Treasury of the Western District	20 82
	Whole indebtedness	44 91

W. F. LEHMANN, Treasurer.

E) Promiscuous Resolutions.

In the fifth session:

Resolved, That Mssrs. Soller and Helfrich be excused to leave this day at noon.

In the 8th session.

Resolved, That the Pastor Loci be requested to tender to his Congregation our hearty thanks for the kind hospitality, which we have enjoyed among them.

Resolved, That the Recording Secretary be instructed to have 1000 German and 500 English copies of our Minutes printed.

Resolved, That we now adjourn, to meet again at Delaware, Ohio, on the Wednesday before the first full moon in October 1856.

F.) The Protest and action on the same.

During the last session of Synod a Protest was handed in by two members of the Delegation from the English District, in regard to which it was

Resolved, That the Recording Secretary be instructed to publish this Protest of two Delegates of the English District, with such elucitations as may be necessary to set the matter right before the public.

The Secretary therefore gives here the said Protest verbatim.

1. The Protest.

We the undersigned, a majority of the Delegates of the English District Synod now pacsent, respectfully request the following protest to be entered on the minutes of this Synod, viz:

We solemnly protest against the position and spirit of the Joint Synod of Ohio in the following particulars, viz: 1.) That no disposition is manifested to admit into a prominent position in our Church Institutions any person or persons, as representatives of the views and opinions of English District Synod, as they were expressed in the views and opinions of Rev. Dr. Reynolds and Rev. E. Greenwald; 2.) also that no disposition is manifested to retract the accusations which have been made against the English District Synod of not being soundly orthodox in the true Ev. Lutheran faith; 3.) also that no disposition is manifested to annul the resolutions, which were passed by the Joint Synod at its last session, by which all societies outside of the Church, which aim to accomplish any of those objects which the christian Church has and ever must have in view, are indiscriminately condemned, and by which membership in any of the said societies is made a disqualification for the christian ministry, and finally 4.) that no steps are taken to satisfy the Engl. Dist. Synod, that none but the most suitable persons shall be employed as professors and teachers in our Church Institutions. In view of the above objections we solemnly protest against the position and spirit of the Joint Synod of Ohio as now constituted.

JOHN RUGAN, } Delegates of the English
P. WILLIAMS, } Distr. Synod of Ohio &c.

2. Comments on the Protest.

Synod received this Protest with a feeling both of surprise and grief; for knowing, that we had treated the well known resolutions of the English District with the greatest possible forbearance, and had done all that truth and our dignity as a Synod permitted us to do, to restore peace and kind feeling, we had a right to look for a better result, and were therefore both surprised and grieved, that we had utterly failed as far as theese two brethren are concerned. Being moreover convinced, that the Protest would excite and revive animosity, br. Rugan was urgingly requested to withdraw it, and only after all our efforts to this effect proved ineffectual, Synod resolved to publish it with the necessary explanations.

The above document however is not properly a Protest, and therefore might with propriety have been laid on the table; but Synod wishing to avoid all appearance of arbitrary action, received it, and ordered it to be printed.

Protesting can properly be done only against some *action* against a deliberative body; but here the brethren protest because as they say, Synod

did NOT act, and this even when it was impossible to act. Had they offered some resolution, and Synod had voted it down, or ordered it to be laid on the table, there might have been some appearance of a right to protest. But no such thing was done. Br. Rugan, during the debate on a certain subject, asked leave to propose some questions to Synod, because, as he said, he did not wish to take the body by surprise. This being granted, he verbally proposed the questions contained in the four points of the Protest, and then withdrew for a while with his colleagues. They returned before the question then before the Synod was disposed of, and as soon as the vote thereon was taken, he presented the above Protest, giving therefore no opportunity at all to act on his questions, before he handed in the paper. This alone would be sufficient to show that it was entirely out of place; but as also each one of the points contained in the document is entirely without foundation, we shall now proceed to consider them separately.

NOTE. The figurs have been added by the Secretary, to make it easier to refer to each part.

To No. 1. (See the Protest.)

This accusation is unjust in three several respects.

a.) Our Church Institutions being under the Jurisdiction of Boards of Directors, and those Boards having never been instructed by Synod, as how they ought to fill the Professorships, Synod cannot reasonably be made responsible for their action. If the English District felt itself agrieved, those brethren ought to have laid their complaints before the Board, either as a body, or as individuals. But this, to the best of our knowledge, they never attempted to do; and hence had no right to speak as they have done.

b.) But even if the Joint Synod had the whole jurisdiction over those Institutions, the protesting brethren would do us great injustice. Two of the Professors, and one of them the President, viz: Dr. Reynolds and Prof. Essick were acknowledged by them as representing their views and opinions. this was twice or three times their ratio of representation (if views and opinions must be represented,): for Capital University had but four Professors, of whom two represented them, while the English District is but one out of four Synods, and as it regards numerical strength, but one fifth of the whole body. *There was therefore great disposition manifested to admit into prominent positions &c.*

But perhaps those Professors were driven off through the machinations of the Joint Synod? By no means. They themselves demanded a change in the faculty, and made their connection with the institution dependent on that change; and when the Board showed no inclination to comply with their desire, they resigned. Now, could the Joint Synod help or prevent this? By no means. The protest then would more correctly read thus:

„That no disposition is manifested to fill all prominent positions in our Church Institutions with persons as representatives of the views and opi-

jons of the English District Synod, without regard to the other Districts.

c.) It seems to us to be strange doctrine, that VIEWS and OPINIONS must be consulted in the choice of Professors in a literary Institution of the Ev. Lutheran Church. We always held, that Piety, Orthodoxy, Learning, Aptness to teach, and Fidelity were the only requisits and not VIEWS and OPINIONS.

To No. 2.

The members of the Joint Synod do not recollect of a resolution ever having been adopted by, or even presented to this body, expressing or even implying, that the Engl. Distr. Synod is not soundly orthodox, and never having made the accusation, can of course not manifest any disposition to retract it.

To No. 3.

This is the only point of the Protest, which br. Ragan or any of his colleagues ever mentioned in debate. He extends the meaning of the words „societies outside of the Church," further than Synod admits that it ought to be taken, yet expressed himself as perfectly agreeing with our body when they are explained in the sense in which we understand them. Now as Synod has appointed a special Committee to sustain our position from the word of God and our Symbols, the Protest on this point comes undoubtedly to soon.

To No. 4.

This accusation falls to the ground together with the first; *for the employing of professors and teachers* is lodged in the hands of the Boards of Directors. But that those Boards also have done their duty is evident from the high reputation, which those Institutions have enjoyed and do yet sustain under their present corps of instructors. We consider it however as morally wrong for the brethren to make this sweeping accusation, when from their own admissions we know that they find fault with but one of our Professors. And this wrong is yet increased by the fact, that at the last* meeting of the Board of Directors of Capital University not one of the Directors from the English District appeared, nor one of the protesting brethren, although they were most pressingly invited to attend, so that they might sustain their charge. We are however credibly informed, that the matter was carefully investigated by the Board, and they found, that not one of the rumors set afloat against that Professor could be sustained.

We see therefore that these two brethren did not only protest against non-action of Synod, when they themselves gave no opportunity for action, but also that their four points of complaint do not exist in reality, but only in their own imagination, and we fear that their constituents will not thank them for the manner in whic they have represented them. We hope however, that the brethren themselves will after mature reflection see, that

* This portion of the comments was written Feb. 23d. 1855.

they have wronged this body, and make reparation. The Joint Synod of Ohio harbors no unkind feelings towards them, and it is hoped, that they will also cease to feel agreaved, when they see that they have no cause to do so.

At least we believe, trust and pray, that the Great Head of the Church, who holds the reins of the Universe, and who has said that he will cause, even the wrath of man to praise Him, will vauchsafe to cause also this mistake of our erring brethren to work for His own glory, and for the advancement of His Zion. AMEN.

In the name of the Ev. Luth. Joint Synod of Ohio & adj· St.

THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

It is hereby attested, that the above is a correct exhibit of the transactions of Synod, and that the Reports and Resolutions are here given verbatim.

The Recording Secretary,

A. B. BIERDEMANN.

NOTE.—The arrangement of the above is new, andmay be defective yet the Secretary flatters himself, that the matters transacted are thus more clearly set forth, than if they had been arranged by sessions. However this may be, about one third of the expenses are thereby saved.